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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/068 W
----------069551 101952Z /64
R 071645Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4118
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, DR
SUBJECT: PENA GOMEZ SAYS HE WOULD TAKE LEAVE IF PRD WINS ELECTION

REFS: A. SANTO DOMINGO A-27, B. SANTO DOMINGO A-32, C. SANTO COMINGO A-36

1. DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ STATED IN APRIL 5 RADIO SPEECH THAT HE WOULD TAKE LEAVE OF HIS POSITION AS LEADER OF PRD IF PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANTONIO GUZMAN IS ELECTED MAY 16. IN THIS EVENTUALITY, LEAVE WOULD TAKE EFFECT IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING SWEARING IN OF GUZMAN AS PRESIDENT.

2. BACKGROUND FOUR UNUSUAL DECLARATION IS INCREASING DEGREE TO WHICH PENA--HIS FIERY, CHARISMATIC ORATORICAL STYLE AS WELL AS HIS AND PRD'S ROLE IN 1965 REVOLUTION--HAVE BECOME ONE OF PRINCIPAL ISSUES IN CAMPAIGN (REFS A AND B). IN APRIL 5 STATE-MENTS, PENA APPEARED TO BE STILL REACTING TO EARLIER DIRECT ATTACKS ON HIM BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER, BUT HE HAS ALSO RECENTLY LEVELED VAGUE CHARGES OF "PLOTS" AGAINST HIMSELF AND OTHER PRD LEADERS (REF C).

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3. PRD SECGEN DENIED FURTHER SUGGESTIONS MADE BY DETRACTORS THAT HE PLANNED TO BECOME "PRIME MINISTER" OR "POWER BEHIND THE THRONE" IN A PRD GOVERNMENT. TO AVOID GIVING CURRENCY TO THESE CHARGES, HE SAID HE HAD CONSCIOUSLY TURNED DOWN OFFERS TO ACCEPT PRD SENATORIAL OR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDACIES AND THAT HE SOUGHT NO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. HE INSISTED THAT GUZMAN IS INDEPENDENT OF HIS CONTROL. HE SAID FURTHER THAT SUCH ASSUSATIONS

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ARE MADE "TO INSPIRE FEAR IN THE MILITARY CHIEFS AND
CONSERVATIVE BUSINESSMEN."

4. DAY BEFORE, PENA ALSO ACCUSED BALAGUER OF "PREPARING THE
SCENE FOR THE EXECUTION OF A MANEUVER" TO ASSURE HIS REELECTION,
AND SAID THIS MANEUVER WOULD UTILIZE "AN ACT OF FORCE."
USING AS A PRETEXT THE SUPPOSEDLY VIOLENT AND RADICAL TENDENCIES
OF PRD.

5. REFORMIST PARTY (PR) SPOKESMAN IMMEDIATELY ACCUSED PENA OF
"LACKING RESPECT" FOR BALAGUE AND MAKING "UNFORTUNATE"
STATEMENTS ABOUT THE MILITARY, THUS VILATING PRD-PR"NON-
AGGRESSION PACT." ALSO PRESIDENT BALAGUER HIMSELF, IN A
CAMPAIGN SPEECH YESTERDAY (SEPTEL) TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SOME
RECENT WORDS OF BRAVADO ON PART OF PRD VICE-PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE JACOBO MAJLUTA TO ONCE AGAIN POINT THAT PRD
IS PARTY WHICH EMPLOYS "THREATS" THILE PR IS PARTY OF PEACE.

6. COMMENT: PENNA'S ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT HIMSELF AS
AN ISSUE IN CAMPAIGN WILL BE DIFFICULT. FOR HIS EFFORTS
TO DO SO APPEAR ONLY TO GET HIM MORE STUCK WHILE
EFORMISTA PARTY CONTINUES SKILLFULLY TO MANIPULATE
HIM AS "THE" ISSUE.
AXELROD

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NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, THREATS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PARTY SCHISMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-0415
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780480/aaaacqdq.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6df934b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, DR, PRD, (PENA GOMEZ, JOSE FRANCISCO), (GUZMAN, ANTONIO)
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